

# BURIED ALIVE

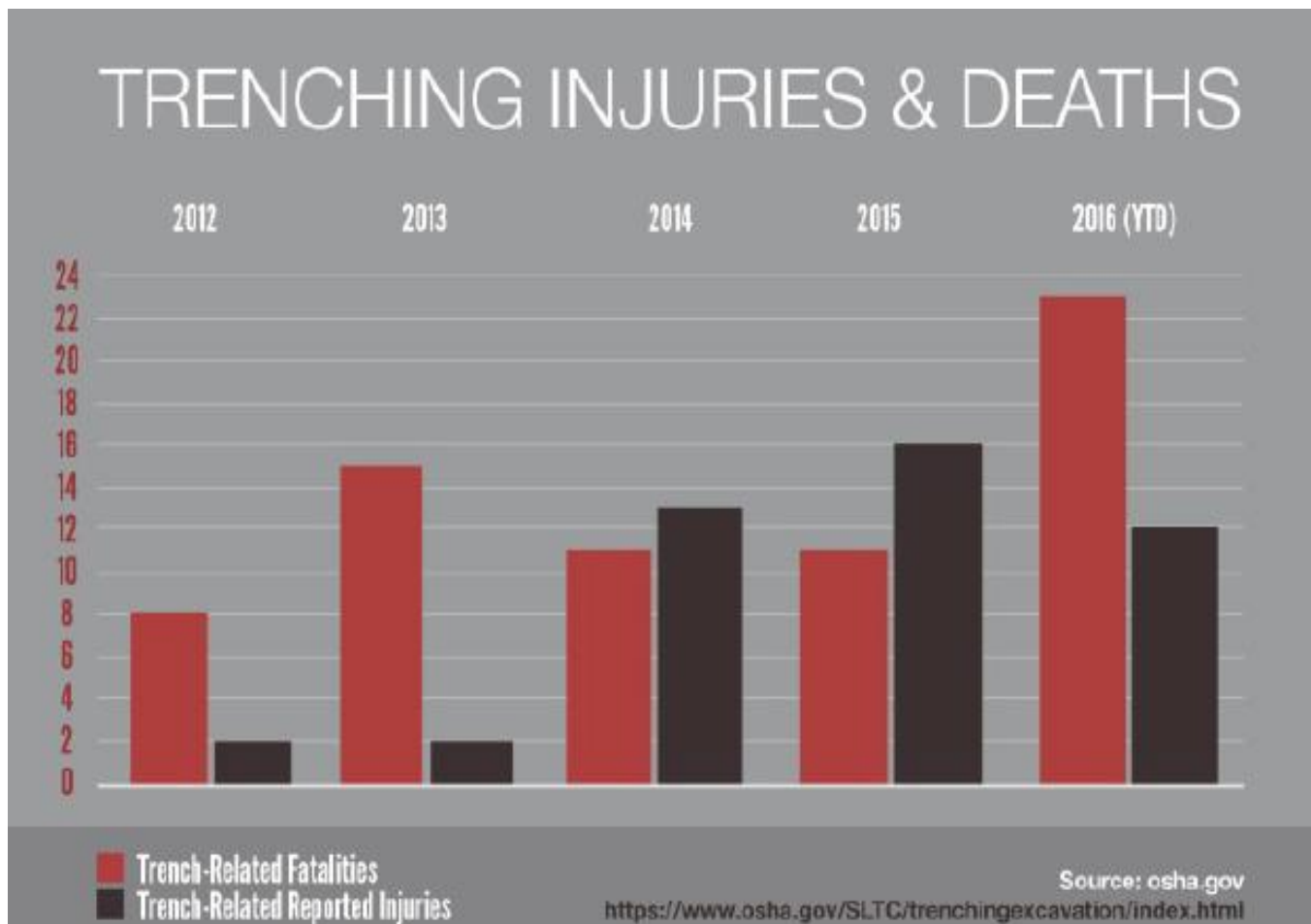
A SURVIVOR'S STORY

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by JOE TANTARELLI



Ohio worker's death highlights grim 2016 national stat:  
trench collapse fatalities have more than doubled  
*OSHA cites 33-year-old man's employer for willful, serious safety violations*



November 17, 2016

## BURIED ALIVE

### Ohio worker's death highlights grim 2016 national stat: trench collapse fatalities have more than doubled *OSHA cites 33-year-old man's employer for willful, serious safety violations*

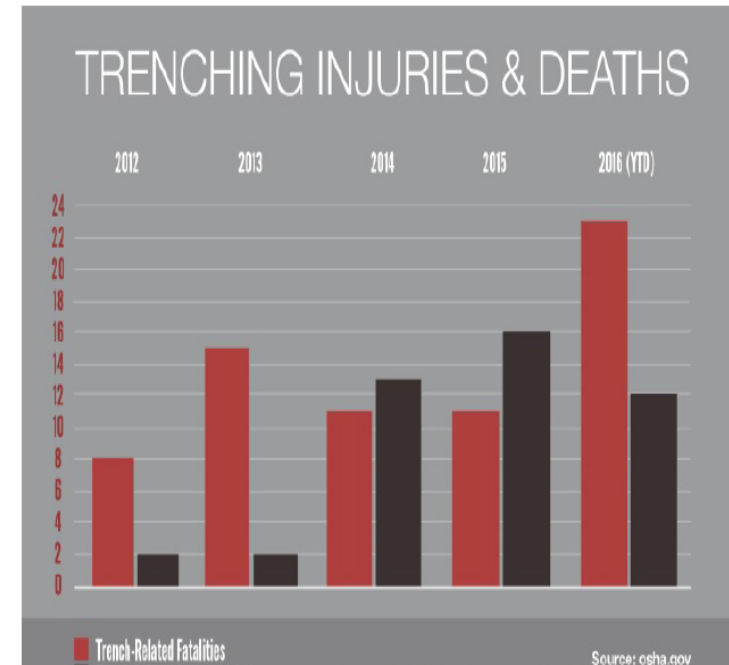
**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP, Ohio** - OSHA cited an Ohio company after a 33-year-old employee was crushed to death in June 2016 as he was digging soil out of the 12-foot trench in Washington Township, when the trench walls around him collapsed - burying him in thousands of pounds of dirt. Rescue workers recovered his body a few hours later.

He is one of 23 workers killed, and 12 others who reported injuries in trench collapses in 2016. Trench collapses are rarely survivable. One cubic yard of soil can weigh up to 3,000 lbs. - the weight of a small automobile - giving a worker in a trench little chance of survival when walls of soil collapse.

"Trench deaths have more than doubled nationwide since last year - an alarming and unacceptable trend that must be halted," said Dr. David Michaels, assistant secretary of labor for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. "There is no excuse. These fatalities are completely preventable by complying with OSHA standards that every construction contractor should know."

An investigation by the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration found his employer, KRW Plumbing LLC, did not provide trench cave-in protection for its employees. OSHA cited the company for two willful and two serious safety violations on Nov. 8, 2016, after the agency completed its investigation into the June 15, 2016, death and a subsequent investigation opened in October 2016.

The employee was part of a crew installing a sewer line at a residential home under construction in the 400 block of Claxton Glen Court. The agency's



***Do you think this was his first encounter with a trench collapse?***

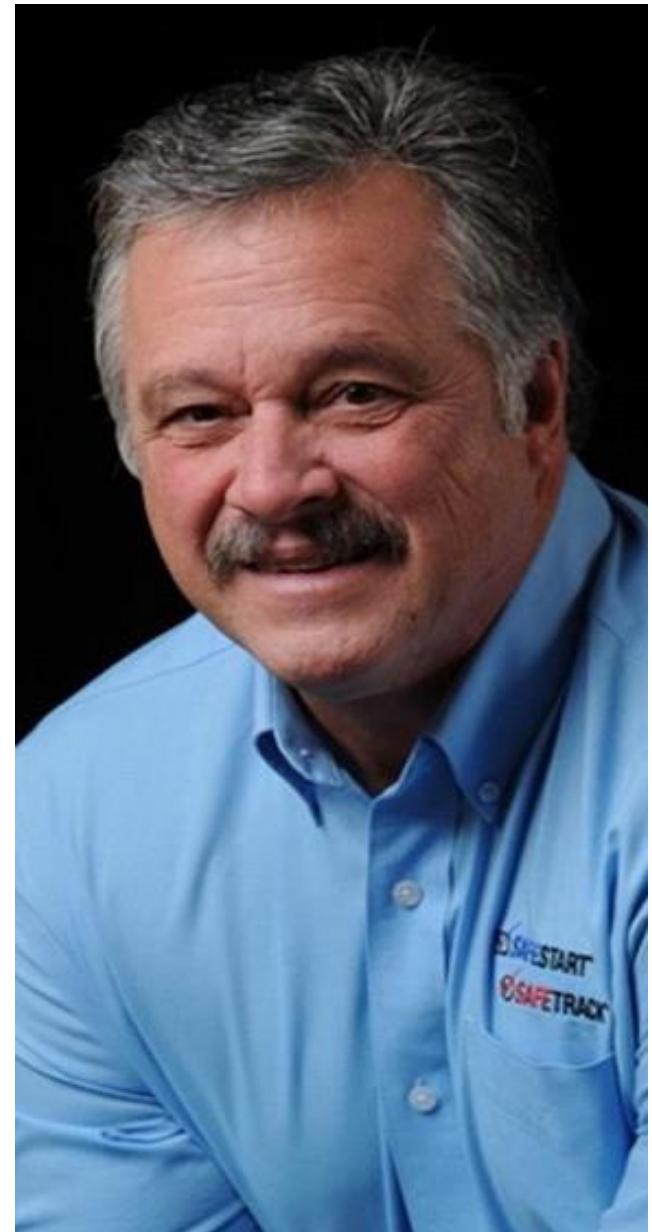


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ALL ABOUT

# Joe Tantarelli

- Workplace Safety Consultant and Implementation Specialist.
- Site Development (Earth Moving and Excavation) Construction for nearly 40 years. From shovel to General Manager.
- Safety and Production Training Specialist for Site Development and Municipal Infrastructure.
- Damage Prevention Manager





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# Complacency in the Workplace

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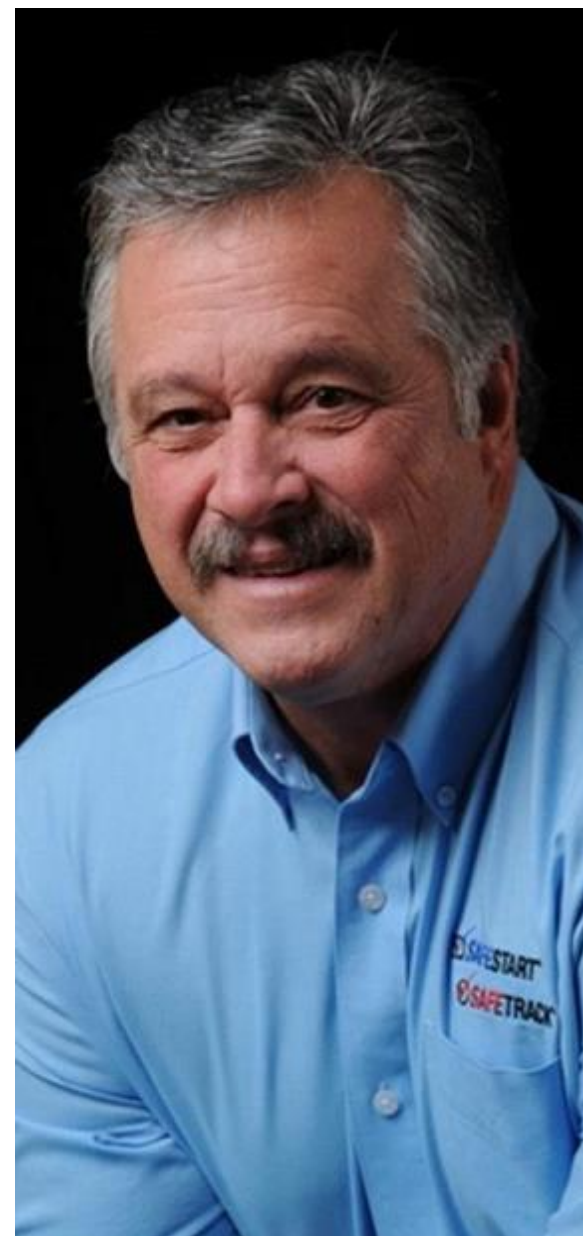
By Gary A. Higbee



## Joe Tantarelli

### Conference Speaker:

- Army Corps of Engineers Construction Roundtable,
- Kentucky's Governor's Safety and Health Conference,
- Ohio BWC Safety Expo,
- Kentucky League of Cities Insurance Services,
- Georgia Safety Health and Environmental Conference,
- Keynote and Breakout Sessions at ASSE Conferences,
- National Safety Council Conference,
- Numerous Safety Expos across North America.
- VPPPA Conference.





# The 4 States

A yellow excavator is shown in the process of digging a deep trench. The excavator's arm and bucket are visible, and the trench walls are composed of dark, moist soil with some roots exposed. The sky is overcast and grey.

*These four states...*

- ☒ Rushing
- ☒ Frustration
- ☒ Fatigue
- ☒ Complacency

*can cause or contribute to these critical errors...*

- ☐ Eyes not on Task
- ☐ Mind not on Task
- ☐ Line-of-Fire
- ☐ Balance/Traction/Grip

*...which increase the risk of injury.*



# Awareness/Complacency Continuum

**Awareness:** risk consciousness while driving, working, walking, biking, etc.

**First Stage of Complacency:** no longer pre-occupied with the risk so your mind can wander

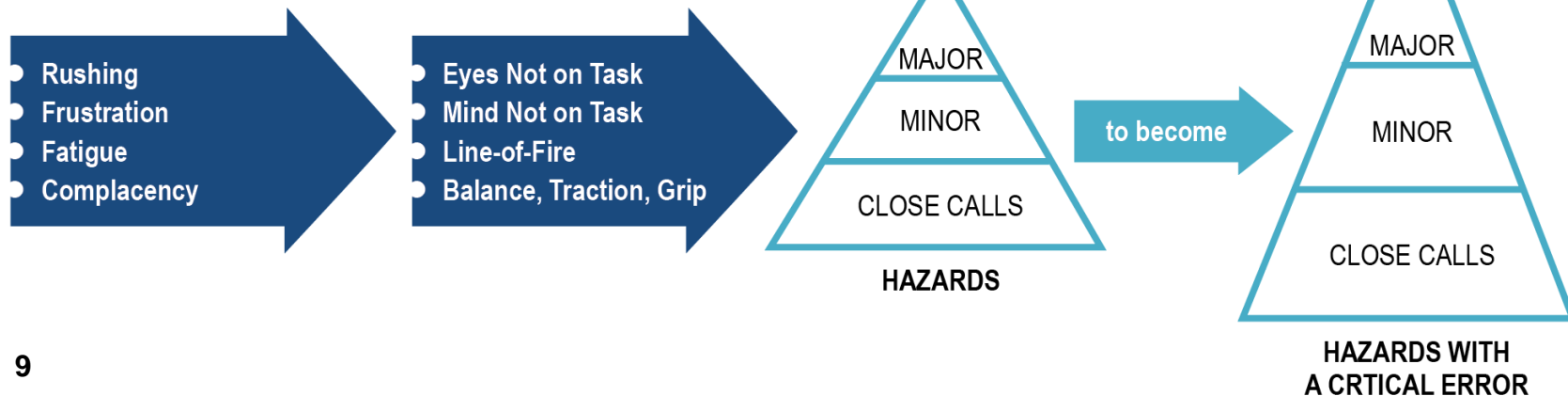


**MULTI - TASKING**

Time

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STATES  
cause  
ERRORS,  
which  
in turn  
INCREASE RISK







# The 4 States

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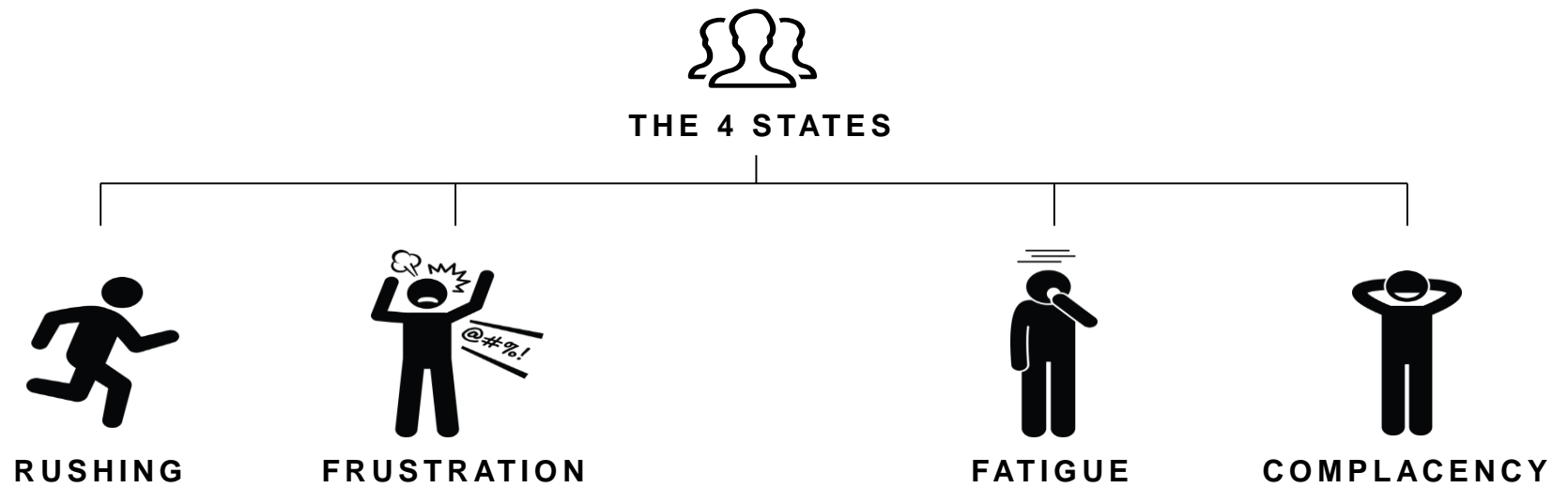
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# The 4 Errors

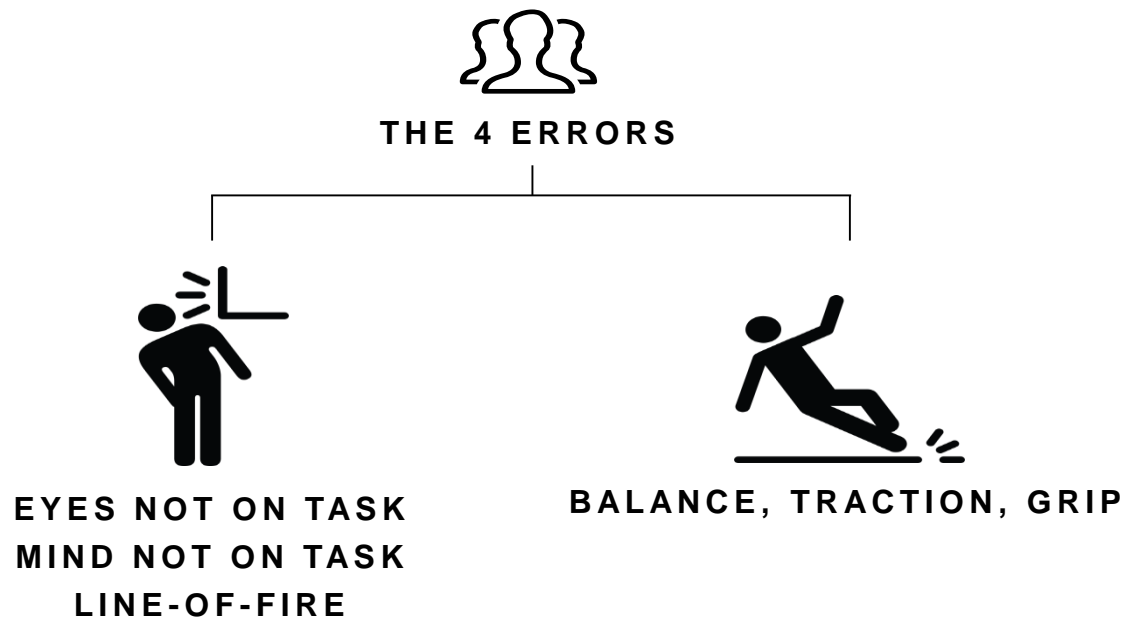
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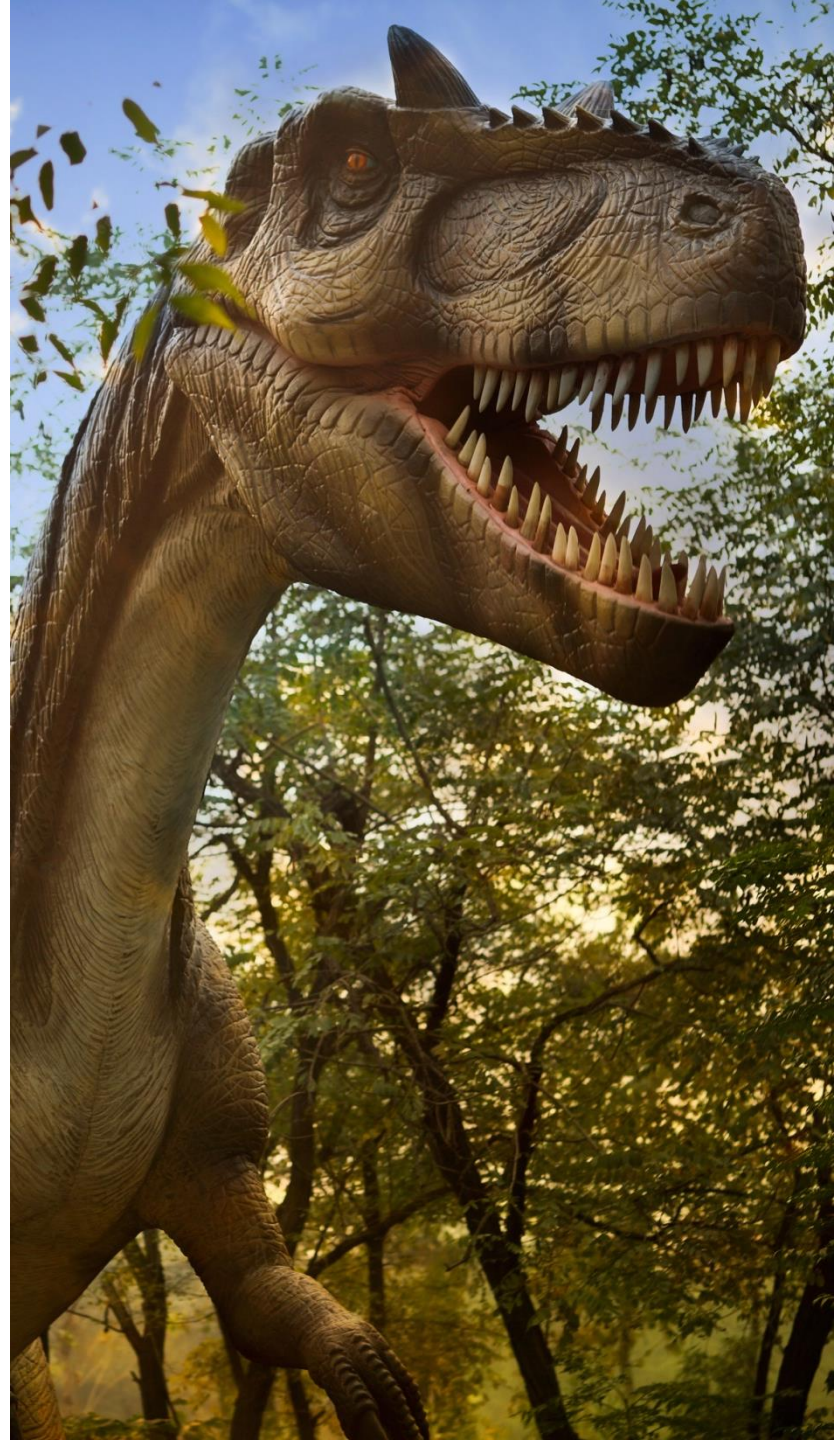
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## Let's Go Back In Time

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Way back.

OK. Not quite that far back!



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1983

June  
6th

That's more like it.





# My Story

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## *These four states...*

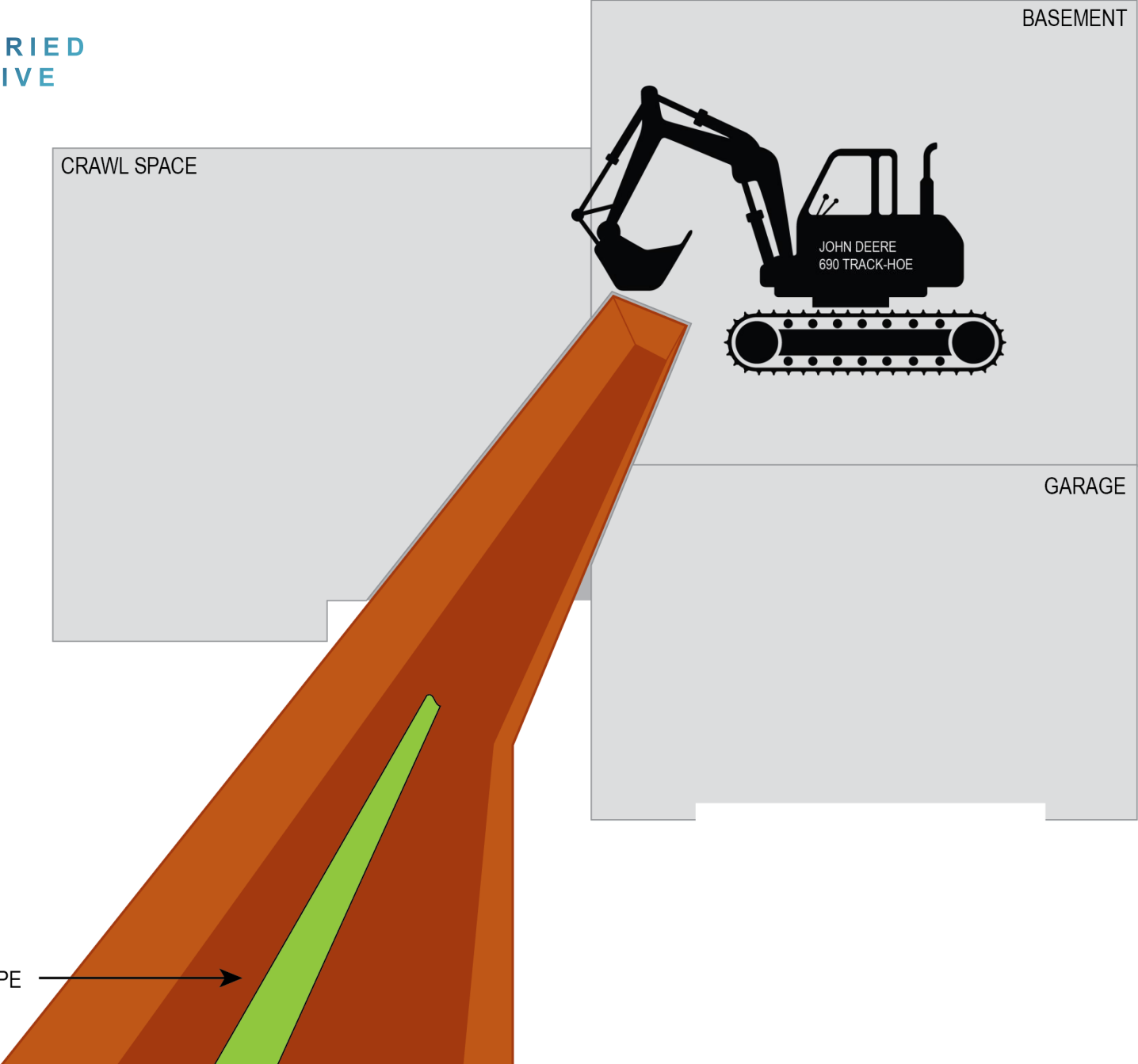
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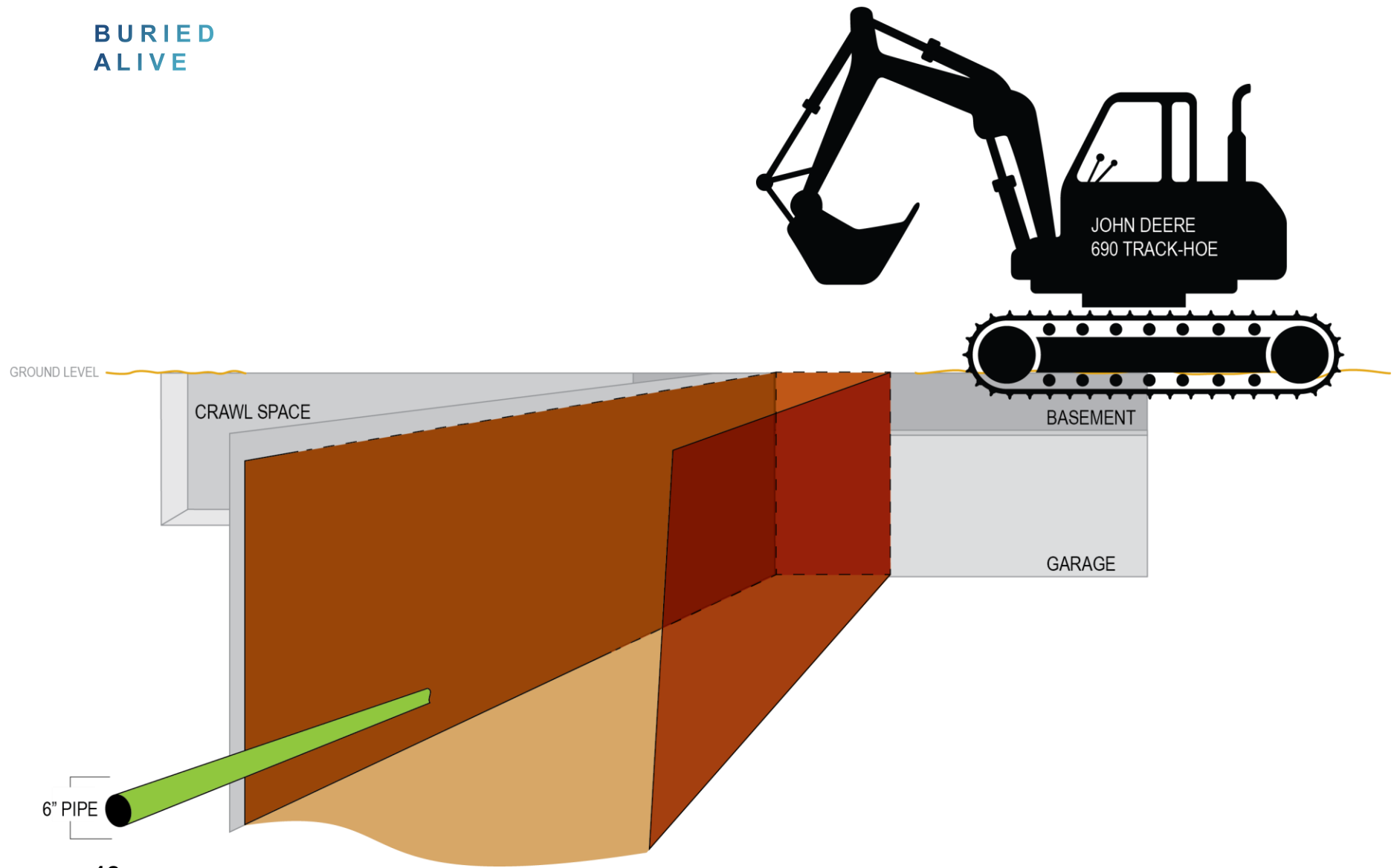
*...which increase the risk of injury.*

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# When Disaster Strikes

It's in this moment when you realize that every second matters  
when saving someone's life...





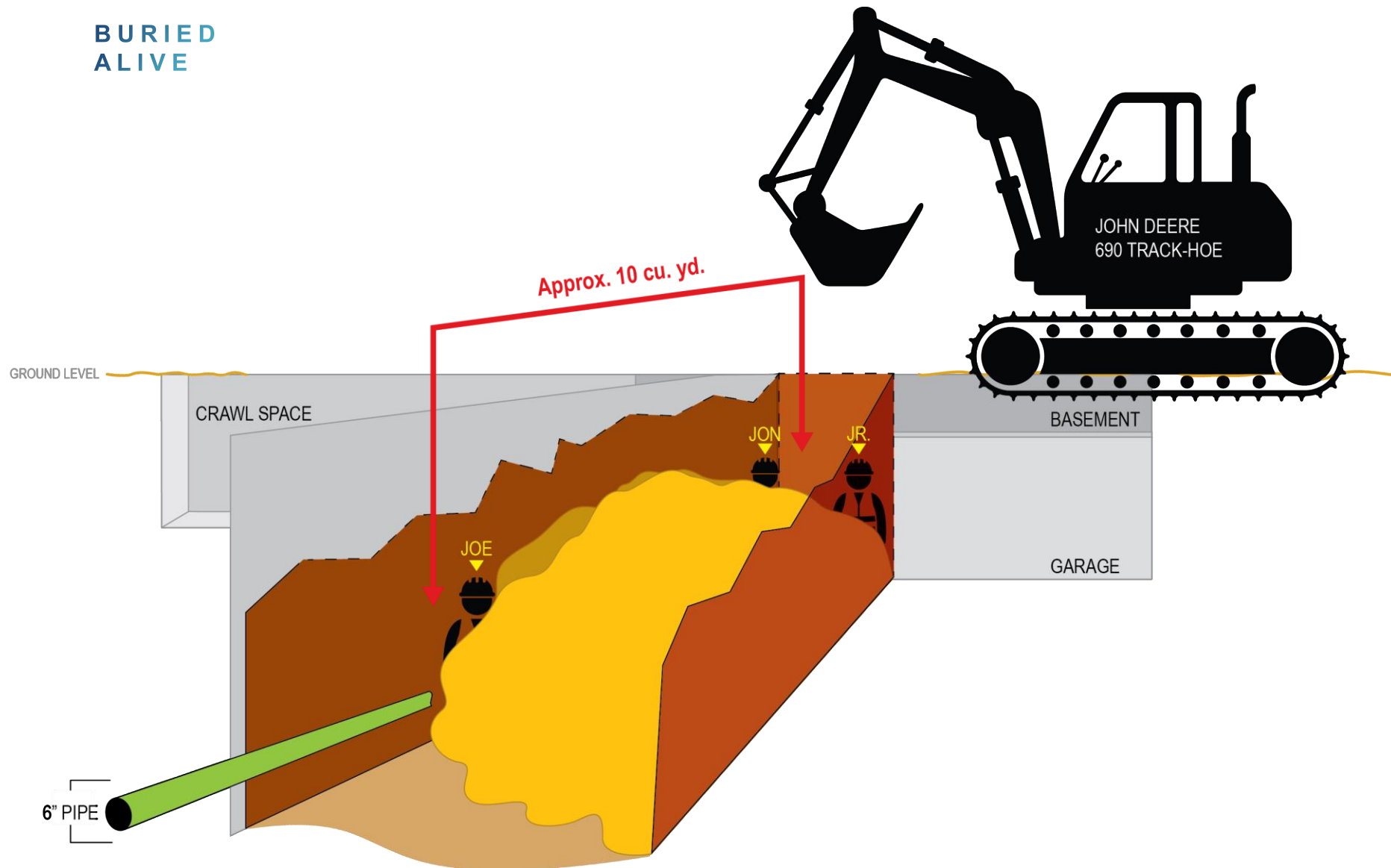


# Is When It's Already Too Late

...and in that same moment you realize that even a single second is too late  
to try and save them.



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Where it all  
began

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MY FAMILY THEN





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Many  
years  
later

---

MY FAMILY NOW





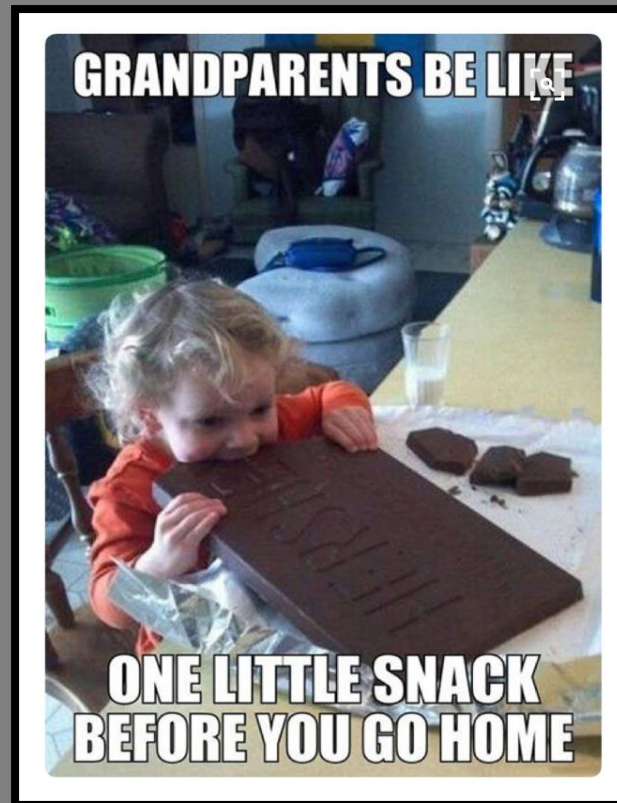
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BEST OF ALL

# My Grandchildren



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# My Story

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*Joe Tantarelli*

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***...which increase the  
risk of injury.***



A photograph of a steep, eroded soil bank. The soil is light brown and shows signs of weathering and erosion, with various textures and layers visible. A blue arrow points to a specific area on the lower right side of the bank, labeled 'Weak Point'.

Weak  
Point

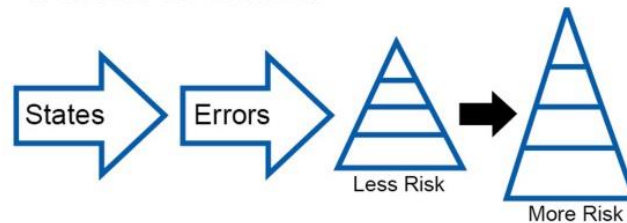


# My Story

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*Joe Tantarelli*  
**Critical Error Reduction  
Techniques (CERT)**

- ✓ 1. Self-trigger on the state (or amount of hazardous energy) so you don't make a critical error.
2. Analyze close calls and small errors (to prevent agonizing over big ones).
3. Look at others for the patterns that increase the risk of injury.
- ✓ 4. Work on habits.



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### PROTECT WORKERS IN TRENCHES

Prevent trench  
collapses and  
save lives:

**SLOPE** or bench  
trench walls,

**SHORE** trench walls  
with supports, or

**SHIELD** trench  
walls with trench boxes



U.S. Department of Labor



Photo: Emergency  
Production - NASA

[WWW.OSHA.GOV/TRENCHING](http://WWW.OSHA.GOV/TRENCHING) • 800-321-OSHA (6742) • TTY 877-889-5627

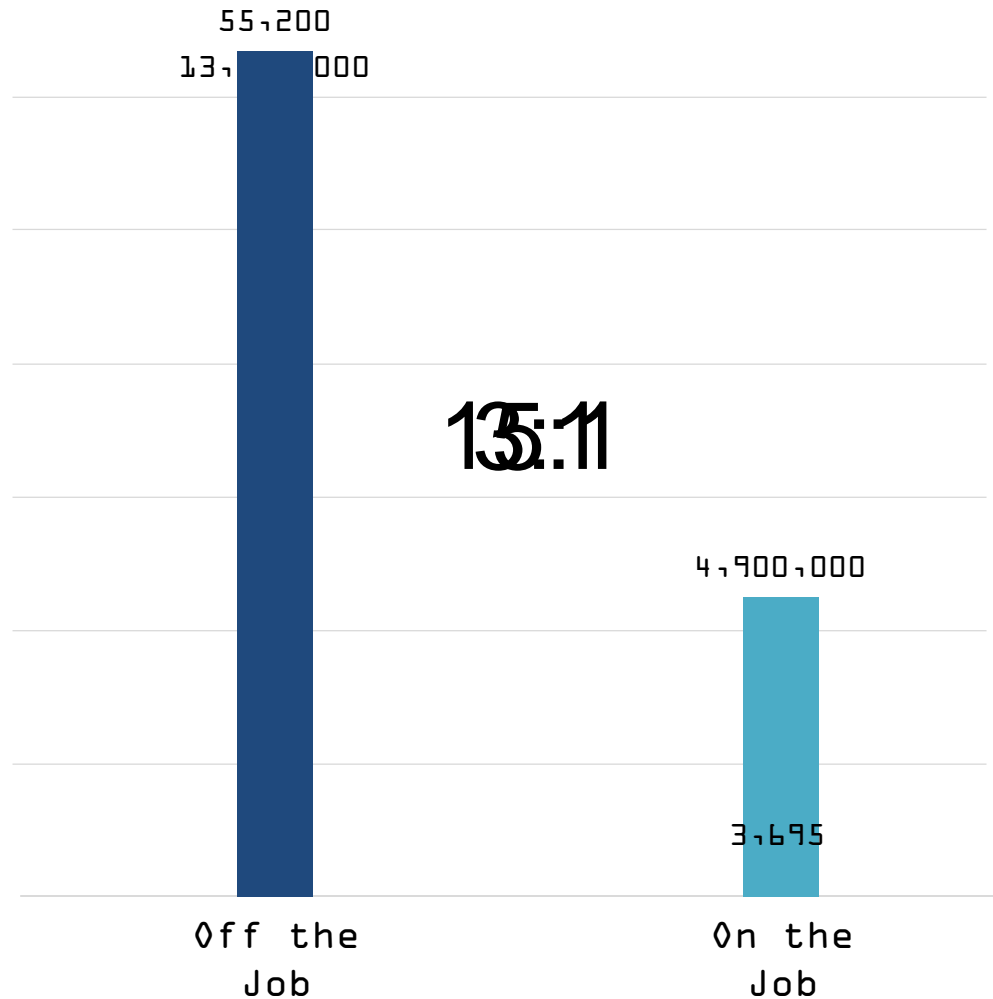
OSHA 3062-101



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# Off the Job VS On the Job

And the ratio, nearly 15 times as many off  
the job fatalities as on the job  
injuries



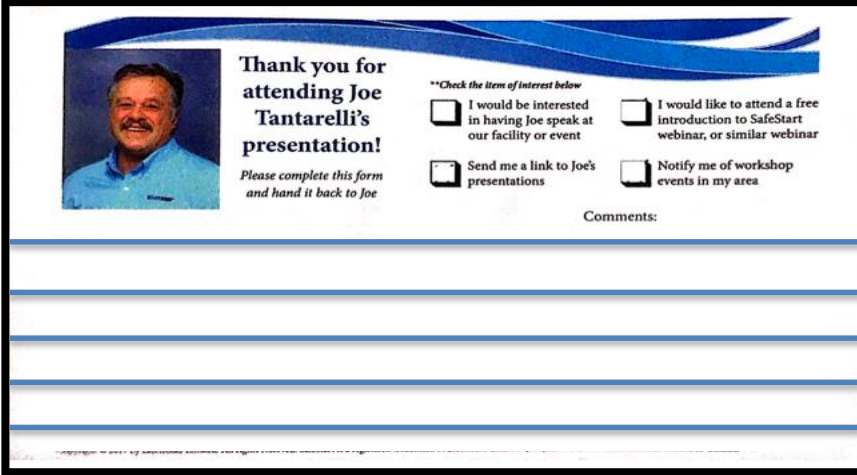


🎵 Clap Along if You Know What Happiness is to You! 🎵





Please, fill out the  
Lead Sheet and  
be sure to add  
your comments!



**Thank you for attending Joe Tantarelli's presentation!**  
*Please complete this form and hand it back to Joe*

**\*\*Check the item of interest below**

<input type="checkbox"/> I would be interested in having Joe speak at our facility or event	<input type="checkbox"/> I would like to attend a free introduction to SafeStart webinar, or similar webinar
<input type="checkbox"/> Send me a link to Joe's presentations	<input type="checkbox"/> Notify me of workshop events in my area

Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

You may leave it  
at your seat after  
filling it out.

OR

Email me at  
**joe@safestart.com**

Your input is greatly appreciated!  
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!**





**Joe Tantarelli**

SAFESTART CONSULTANT/ PRESENTER

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**Thank you** for your participation!